

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Daniel G. Schweikert, John F. MacDonald  
Assignee: Sun Microsystems, Inc.  
Title: METAL REGION FOR REDUCTION OF CAPACITIVE COUPLING  
BETWEEN SIGNAL LINES  
Serial No.: 09/452,367 Filed: November 30, 1999  
Examiner: Mitchell, James M. Group Art Unit: 2827  
Docket No.: P-3790

Monterey, CA  
January 31, 2003

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 20-29, and 31-34 have been cancelled without prejudice.

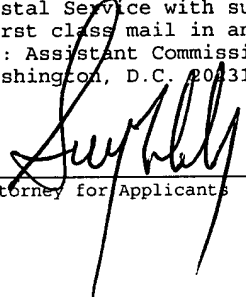
Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. (TWICE AMENDED) A structure comprising:  
a substrate;  
a first signal line above said substrate;  
a second signal line above said substrate, wherein unused substrate surface area exists between said first signal line and said second signal line;  
a first shield line in said unused substrate surface area and;  
a second shield line electrically connected to said first shield line, wherein said first shield line and said second shield line are part of a single conductor layer and wherein

said first shield line and said second shield line are electrically floating.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20531, on January 31, 2003.

  
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Attorney for Applicants

January 31, 2003  
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Date of Signature